

1 Transient anomaly in fault-zone trapped waves during the preparatory phase of the 6 April
2 2009, Mw 6.3 L'Aquila earthquake

3
4 Giovanna Calderoni, Antonio Rovelli, and Rita Di Giovambattista
5 Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia
6 Via di Vigna Murata 605
7 00143 Rome, Italy
8
9

10 *Abstract*

11 Fault-zone trapped waves generated by repeating earthquakes of the 2009 L'Aquila seismic
12 sequence show a sudden, up to 100% increase of spectral amplitudes seven days before the
13 mainshock. The jump occurs ten to twenty hours after the M_L 4.1, 30 March 2009 largest foreshock.
14 The amplitude increase is accompanied by a loss of waveform coherence in the fault-trapped
15 wavetrain. Other geophysical and seismological parameters are known to have shown a sudden
16 change after the 30 March foreshock. The concomitance of a consistent change in the fault-zone
17 trapped waves leads us to interpret our observation as due to a sudden temporal variation of the
18 velocity contrast between the fault damage zone and hosting rocks in the focal volume. Fault-zone
19 trapped waves thus provide a refined time resolution for changes occurring near the rupture
20 nucleation, with the indication of a strong variation in one day.

1) Introduction

The Mw 6.3, 6 April 2009 L'Aquila earthquake was preceded by a long suite of foreshocks, the largest one (M_L 4.1) occurred on 30 March at 13:38 (UTC). This event marked the beginning of an abrupt temporal change in different seismic parameters such as the b-value [Papadopoulos *et al.*, 2010; Segan *et al.*, 2014], the spatio-temporal distribution of the events [Telesca, 2010], the P-to-S wave velocity ratio [Di Luccio *et al.*, 2010; Lucente *et al.*, 2010]. Using a cross-correlation analysis of ambient noise, Zaccarelli *et al.* [2011] observed a drop of 0.3% in crustal velocity that was associated to a perturbation of elastic properties in the L'Aquila region.

Foreshocks before and after the M_L 4.1 foreshock have different locations, frequency and magnitude distribution (Fig. 1). Before that event, seismicity was concentrated to the North of the volume where the main shock nucleated. After the M_L 4.1 event, rate and magnitude of foreshocks increased and seismicity migrated toward the main shock nucleation zone. These features of seismicity make difficult to assess precisely to what extent the changes in seismic parameters found in some of the above-mentioned papers are in time or in space. As remarked by Savage [2010], this ambiguity is not completely solved when only a small group of foreshocks has similar location of aftershocks. In this study, we base our inferences on waveforms of repeating earthquakes. These events occurred in the crustal volume where the Mw 6.3 main shock nucleated, and their waveforms are used to discriminate spatial from temporal variations of elastic parameters along the fault. We analyze amplitudes of fault-zone trapped waves (FZTWs) recorded at FAGN, a broad-band station of the permanent network run by Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV). This station is aligned along the strike of the main fault, about 20 km to the southeast of the main shock epicenter.

Amplitude variations in FZTWs have been object of previous studies [Calderoni *et al.*, 2010, 2012] where two clusters were found to promote the most efficient FZTWs at FAGN. These clusters are located in the northwestern and southeastern tips of the fault plane of the main shock rupture, as

shown by the color scale in the inset of Fig. 1. The question addressed here is whether the amplitude variations of FZTWs as found by *Calderoni et al.* [2012] have a spatial origin only or do they imply temporal variations as well. The events of the northwestern cluster are particularly well suited to face the issue as they sample a part of the main shock preparation volume throughout a long time interval including both foreshocks and aftershocks. Differences in their waveforms thus reflect changes in elastic properties along the ray-path [see also *Poupinet et al.*, 1984; *Ellsworth et al.*, 1992; *Schaff and Beroza*, 2004].

2) Search for repeating earthquakes

Waveforms of repeating earthquakes are selected among seismograms recorded by three 24-bits broad band seismological stations (namely AQU, FAGN and FIAM) operated by INGV in the epicentral area (Fig. 1). Seismograms are available on line at <http://iside.rm.ingv.it>.

The northwestern cluster as originally identified by *Calderoni et al.* [2012] was composed of 19 events (see the inset of Fig. 1). After a new search in the database, eighteen more events with similar hypocenter determinations were found. For a preliminary selection we checked both hypocenter determinations of the INGV bulletin (at <http://bollettinosismico.rm.ingv.it/>) and those by *Chiaraluce et al.* [2011] that used a more refined double-difference (DD) algorithm [*Waldhauser and Ellsworth*, 2000]. Therefore, the waveform similarity of earthquakes was estimated with a cross-correlation analysis in the time domain following the procedure of *Console and Di Giovambattista* [1987]. We analyzed seismograms of FIAM as the ray path from the cluster to this station crosses the rupture volume to a minor extent. As discussed by *Di Luccio et al.* [2010], FIAM and FAGN have comparable distance from the nucleation volume but ray paths of FIAM, which are transversal to the fault, are less sensitive to local spatial variations compared to FAGN where ray paths go along strike.

To estimate the coherence of waveforms of FIAM, the cross-correlation coefficient (CC) was computed using the vertical and fault-parallel components after band-pass filtering between 1 and 6

Hz. We extracted a 4-s time window starting with the P-wave onset and including the arrivals of the direct S-wave. The largest S-wave pulse dominates the cross-correlation minimizing the influence of the background noise. In the procedure for the computation of CC, the first sample of the time window starts 0.1 s before the manually picked P arrival time, then samples are shifted with a 1 sample increment. Each of the analyzed waveforms of FIAM is correlated against all of those recorded at the same station, and the resulting values of CC are stored in a cross-correlation matrix. This matrix is used to identify a master event showing the highest similarity among events (earthquake # 5 in Table 1) and select repeaters. Vertical and fault-parallel components lead to the same conclusions, results from the fault-parallel component are used hereinafter. At the end of a comparative check, 15 events with $M_L > 2$ resulted in the range $0.8 \leq CC \leq 0.96$, and 2 events in the range $0.7 \leq CC < 0.8$. The other events were not considered in the analysis. Waveforms of FIAM for these selected events are plotted in Figure 2 (column to the left and in the middle), superimposed to the master event.

When the seismograms of the other two stations AQU and FAGN are considered, we note that event # 5, identified as master event with waveforms of FIAM, was not recorded by FAGN and three events (# 6, 7, and 8) available at FAGN were not recorded by FIAM (see Table 1). To check if the latter three events have an acceptable correlation degree, we cross-correlated the seismograms of FAGN with another event (#4) recorded by FAGN and having a very high correlation at FIAM. The resulting cross-correlation coefficients obtained for waveforms of FAGN in the two groups (simultaneously available and not available at FIAM) were generally smaller than those of FIAM, as expected, but are comparable for the two groups. Therefore, the three events recorded at FAGN were accepted for the next analyses, they are included in Table 1 and plotted in Figure 2 (column to the right).

3) Study of the transient change

Waveforms of the 20 repeaters selected in the previous section are used to seek for temporal variations in the fault-zone properties in a time interval spanning from February 2009 to July 2010.

As already observed by *Calderoni et al.* [2010, 2012], FZTWs recorded at FAGN cause systematic larger amplitudes in post-S wavetrains compared to the other two stations. This relative increase of ground motion has been interpreted and modeled as the resonant fundamental mode of the fault-zone excitation that affects mostly the frequency band 1-3 Hz. To investigate temporal variations in the repeater sequence, in this paper we first use the same parameter already adopted by *Calderoni et al.* [2012], i.e. the spectral ratio in the frequency band 1–3 Hz between FAGN and AQU. The time window used by *Calderoni et al.* [2012] was 10 s long bracketing direct S-waves and post-S largest amplitudes phases of the fault-parallel component. In seismograms of FAGN, this time window is dominated by FZTWs [*Calderoni et al.*, 2010]. Fig. 3a depicts the trend of the geometric mean, in the frequency band 1 – 3 Hz, of the FAGN/AQU spectral ratios for repeating earthquakes available both at FAGN and AQU. Error bars indicate a 95% confidence interval. We can see a statistically significant, sharp increase in one day (30 March 2009). This jump is of the order of 100% compared to the level of amplitude of previous foreshocks.

For the sake of comparison, the time variation of seismic velocity in the preparatory volume of the Mw 6.3 main shock [as found by *Zaccarelli et al.*, 2011] is also plotted with the same temporal axis (Fig. 3b). A co-seismic velocity decrease was also observed at the San Andreas Fault immediately after the 2004 M6 Parkfield earthquake [*Li et al.*, 2006, 2007]. Although the time resolution of the analysis by *Zaccarelli et al.* [2011] is much lower because of the 50 days stacking length needed in their analysis, we note a consistent trend in the two plots of Figs. 3a and 3b in coincidence with the main shock preparatory phase. According to *Di Luccio et al.* [2010] a sharp change in the seismicity rate is observed after the M_L 4.1 foreshock of 30 March 2009 (Fig. 3c). The amplitude variation of

121 FZTWs also starts immediately after the strongest foreshock. Note that the M_L 4.1 foreshock is one
122 (# 4) of the repeating earthquakes of our cluster.

123 In principle, spectral ratios of Fig. 3a are controlled by both numerator (FAGN) and denominator
124 (AQU) spectra, then their contribution to the ratio is undetermined a priori. Further investigations
125 are needed to check their relative weight and isolate the role of ray paths to FAGN in the sudden
126 temporal change. A new evidence that the propagation in the fault-zone had a major role is provided
127 by the loss of waveform coherency in the FZTWs recorded at FAGN. According to *Taira et al.*
128 [2008, 2009], the decorrelation index (defined as $1 - CC$) is the optimal parameter to represent the
129 loss of waveform coherency. Fig. 3a depicts time variations of the coherence reduction in repeaters
130 of FAGN when CC is computed in a 4 s time window beginning with the direct S wave and
131 including early trapped waves. For the sake of comparison, the amplitude of spectral ratios
132 FAGN/AQU and the decorrelation index are plotted together. In Fig. 3 a there is an impressive
133 match between these two completely independent parameters: the sudden jump in decorrelation
134 starts in the repeaters immediately after the M_L 4.1 foreshock reproducing the same onset of the
135 FAGN/AQU spectral ratio. The two trends go similarly high until the main shock rupture then they
136 gradually decrease. A similar drop of coherence was observed in concomitance with the 1999, Mw
137 7.1 Duzce earthquake in the Northern Anatolian Fault [*Roux and Ben-Zion, 2014*], with a well
138 constrained transient duration of four days in their study. Unfortunately, the L'Aquila seismic
139 sequence was characterized by a strong seismicity migration from the nucleation volume after the 6
140 April main shock [*Di Luccio et al., 2010*]. This caused a significant depletion of repeaters in the
141 nucleation volume and the small number of repeaters after the main shock in our cluster does not
142 allow to constrain the gradual recovery with the same dense sampling as in the onset. However, Fig.
143 3a shows that late repeaters of June 2009 go down to an amplitude level comparable to the one of
144 early foreshocks, as also indicated (see Fig. 4) by the strong waveform similarity of event # 2 with
145 event # 14 of 20 June, the former representing the situation before the jump of 30 March. In Fig.4

the waveforms in the upper panels (c, d and e) are relative to events occurred between 30 March and 6 April while in the bottom panels events with background amplitudes are shown. The strong temporal variation of waveforms in panels c to e consists in both an amplitude increase and a phase change in the post-S waves. The variation in post-S wavetrains is then further quantified using the spectral ratio between FZTW and direct S-waves of each event. According to the spectrograms of *Calderoni et al* [2010], the wavetrain of FZTWs coming from the cluster beneath AQU begins 1.5 to 2 s after the direct S waves. We extracted a time window of 1.5 s of S waves and a time window of 4.5 s including FZTWs, both starting with the first S arrival. The spectral ratios between these wavetrains for each event are shown in Fig. 4 (red symbols in the central panel). Due to the stability of the direct S waveforms of repeaters, the FZTW/S spectral ratio is a valid indicator of the temporal change of the impedance contrast between the hosting rock and the fault damage zone. This is a much more direct indicator of the fault-zone behavior than FAGN/AQU spectral ratio where also variations in the ray-paths to AQU could have had a role. The FZTW/S spectral ratios confirm a factor of 2 variation in the amplitude jump.

4) Discussion

The increase in amplitudes of FZTWs of co-located repeating earthquakes after the 30 March largest foreshock can be interpreted in terms of a temporal change in the fault-zone properties or a different coupling between the causative earthquakes and the fault zone. *Peng and Ben-Zion* [2006] used the evolving phase delays of cross-correlations of repeating events waveforms to estimate the time delay and then the percentage of velocity change in the Karadere-Duzce Branch of the North Anatolian Fault. *Wu et al.* [2009] used the solution of *Ben-Zion and Aki* [1990] to convert changes in spectral results to percent change of velocities. According to *Fohrmann et al.* [2004] and *Li and Vidale* [2006] the generation of FZTW is very sensitive to small variations of the position of causative earthquakes close the fault zone. Based on

the predominant frequency (≈ 5 Hz) in seismograms of FIAM, the $\lambda/4$ criterion [Geller and Mueller, 1980] suggests that good waveform correlation can exist when separation between repeaters is not greater than two hundred meters. In principle, the upper limit of this inter-event distance is large enough to cause a different excitation of the fault zone. However, events that show a decrease of coherence in the FZTWs of FAGN are characterized by an increase of coherence in the seismograms of FIAM (see Fig. 2), and this opposite behavior suggests that separation between repeaters after the 30 March largest foreshock is not larger than the one of early foreshocks. Moreover, the fault plane solution of event # 4 [Herrmann et al., 2011] indicates normal mechanisms with ruptures in the fault plane for all the events of the cluster. Therefore, the possible up to ≈ 200 m separation between repeaters likely occurs parallel to the fault plane, and this condition guarantees that a different coupling can have only a secondary role in our observations. The concomitant evidence of other temporal changes in seismological [Telesca, 2010; Papadopoulos et al., 2010; Sganzi et al., 2014] and geophysical parameters [Di Luccio et al., 2010; Lucente et al., 2010] after the M_L 4.1 foreshock leads us to ascribe the observed effect primarily to a velocity change in the damage fault zone.

The sharp onset of spectral ratios and decorrelation index at FAGN (Fig. 3 and 4) is thus used as a time marker for a sudden increase of the seismic impedance contrast between the damage fault zone and the hosting rock. The crack growth within the rupture zone could be the main cause of the velocity decrease. Several authors [Di Luccio et al., 2010; Lucente et al., 2010] invoked a role of fluid migration in the preparatory volume of the rupture. This effect can also explain the increase in V_p/V_s observed in the region. As discussed in Di Luccio et al. [2010], models of fluid migration [e.g. Zhang and Sanderson, 1996] predict that the permeability of the fault increased along the direction of the maximum horizontal stress and fluid flow was thus favored along the fault strike. In central Apennines the evidence of pressurized, mantle-derived fluids is given by the high CO_2 release ($1\text{--}5 \times 10^6 \text{ mol km}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$) [Chiodini et al., 2000]. The role of fluids was also confirmed by

geochemical surveys in two regional aquifers located in the epicentral area [*Chiodini et al.*, 2011]. Evidence of the presence of fluids in the seismogenic volume where the analyzed cluster occurs is discussed in *Calderoni et al.* [2012] based on previous results of *Terakawa et al.* [2010].

In this framework, the time variations observed in this study could be related to variations of fluid pressure in the ruptured fault zone that could be responsible for the significant decrease of shear-wave velocity. Compared to the size of the anomalies observed for V_p/V_s (of the order of few percent), our observations suggest that the variation of shear waves in the fault zone was probably much larger. As a matter of fact, the fault zone impedance contrast could have attained a 100% variation, but this represents an upper limit that is valid only for a zero-variation of the source coupling of causative earthquakes with the fault.

5) Conclusions

In this work we describe temporal changes occurred in the fault zone seven days before the L'Aquila main shock. The transient is well constrained through the waveforms of co-located repeaters before and after the mainshock. Three independent techniques show that

- i. The level of fault excitation estimated as a spectral ratio between on-fault (FAGN) and off-fault (AQU) receivers increased suddenly immediately after the 30 March, M_L 4.1 foreshock. This increase persists until the occurrence of the mainshock and then gradually decreases.
- ii. The temporal trend of waveform coherency of FZTWs recorded at FAGN mimics the amplitude transient. The decorrelation index (1-CC) shows a significantly similar jump after the M_L 4.1 foreshock as observed in the FAGN/AQU spectral ratio.
- iii. Direct S waves of repeaters maintain a stable shape while the FZTW wavetrain loses its coherence for tens of days after the largest foreshock. The spectral ratio between FZTWs and direct S waves of FAGN yields consistent amplitude variations compared to (i).

Therefore, independent parameters provide the same time signature, indicating the M_L 4.1 foreshock as a marker for the onset of the temporal variations. Changes in the FZTWs of FAGN are

likely dominated by the variation of the impedance contrast between the hosting rock and the fault damage zone. Spectral ratios yield a factor of 2 amplitude variation thus suggesting that the change of shear-wave velocity in the fault zone could be very large locally, depending on physical processes occurring during the preparatory phase. These include the flow of fluids within the damage zone or the opening and growth of cracks. The shortcoming of this study is the inability to precisely assess the velocity variation in the fault zone due to the impossibility of separating the two competing effects of the velocity change and the varying source coupling of causative earthquakes with the fault for possible, although small, hypocenter variations transversally to the fault plane.

Acknowledgments

Some of the figures were done using GMT [Wessel and Smith, 1991]. The Seismic Analysis Code (SAC) [Goldstein et al., 2002] was used for much of the analysis. The broad band data using in this paper were recorded by seismological stations of the Italian Seismic Network run by Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV). These waveforms are available at <http://iside.rm.ingv.it>. We thank the Editor Andrew W. Newman, Yong Gang Li and an anonymous reviewer for many useful and constructive critical comments. Discussions with Guido Ventura were very helpful in the development of this research.

References

- Ben-Zion, Y., and K. Aki (1990), Seismic radiation from an SH line source in a laterally heterogeneous planar fault zone, *Bull. Seism. Soc. Am.*, 80, 971-994.
- Calderoni, G., A. Rovelli, and R. Di Giovambattista (2010), Large amplitude variations recorded by an on-fault seismological station during the L'Aquila earthquakes: Evidence for a complex fault-induced site effect, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 37, L24305, doi:10.1029/2010GL045697.
- Calderoni, G., R. Di Giovambattista, P. Vannoli, S. Pucillo, and A. Rovelli (2012), Fault-trapped waves depict continuity of the fault system responsible for the 6 April 2009 Mw 6.3 L'Aquila earthquake, central Italy, *Earth Planet. Sci. Lett.*, 323, 1–8, doi:10.1016/j.epsl.2012.01.003.
- Chiaraluce, L., L. Valoroso, D. Piccinini, R. Di Stefano, and P. De Gori (2011), The anatomy of the 2009 L'Aquila normal fault system (central Italy) imaged by high resolution foreshock and aftershock locations, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 116, B12311, doi:10.1029/2011JB008352.

Chiodini, G., F. Frondini, C. Cardellini, F. Parello, and L. Peruzzi (2000), Rate of diffuse carbon dioxide Earth degassing estimated from carbon balance of regional aquifers: The case of central Apennine, Italy, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 105(B4), 8423–8434, doi:10.1029/1999JB900355.

Chiodini, G., A. Caliro, C. Cardellini, F. Frondini, S. Inguaggiato and F. Matteucci (2011), Geochemical evidence for and characterization of CO₂-rich gas sources in the epicentral area of the Abruzzo 2009 earthquakes, *Earth Planet. Sci. Lett.*, 304, 389–398, doi:10.1016/j.epsl.2011.02.016.

Console, R. and R. Di Giovambattista (1987), Local earthquake relative location by digital records, *Phys. Earth Planet. Inter.*, 47, 43–49, doi:10.1016/0031-9201(87)90065-3.

Di Luccio, F., G. Ventura, R. Di Giovambattista, A. Piscini, and F. R. Cinti (2010), Normal faults and thrusts reactivated by deep fluids: The 6 April 2009 Mw 6.3 L'Aquila earthquake, central Italy, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 115, B06315, doi:10.1029/2009JB007190.

DISS Working Group (2010). Database of Individual Seismogenic Sources (DISS), Version 3.1.0: A compilation of potential sources for earthquakes larger than M 5.5 in Italy and surrounding areas. <http://diss.rm.ingv.it/diss/>, © INGV 2009.

Ellsworth, W. L., A. T. Cole, G. C. Beorza, and M. C. Verwoerd (1992), Changes in crustal wave velocity associated with the 1989 Loma Prieta, California, earthquake, *Eos Trans. AGU*, 73(43), Fall Meet. Suppl., F360.

Falcucci, E., S. Gori, E. Peronace, G. Fubelli, M. Moro, M. Saroli, B. Giaccio, P. Messina, G. Naso, G. Scardia, A. Sposato, M. Voltaggio, P. Galli, and F. Galadini (2009), The Paganica fault and surface coseismic ruptures due to the April 6, 2009 earthquake (L'Aquila, Central Italy), *Seismol. Res. Lett.* 80, 6, doi:10.1785/gssrl.80.6.940.

Fohrmann, M., H. Igel, G. Jahnke, and Y. Ben-Zion (2004), Guided waves from sources outside faults: an indication for shallow fault zone structure? *Pure Appl. Geophys.*, 161, 2125–2137, doi:10.1007/s00024-004-2553-y.

Galli, P., B. Giaccio, and P. Messina (2010), The 2009 central Italy earthquake seen through 0.5 Myr-long tectonic history of the L'Aquila faults system, *Quat. Sci. Rev.* 29, 3768–3789, doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2010.08.018.

Geller, R. and C. Mueller (1980), Four similar earthquakes in central California, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 7, 821–824, doi:10.1029/GL007i010p00821.

Goldstein, P., D. Dodge, M. Firpo, and L. Minner (2003), SAC2000: Signal processing and analysis tools for seismologists and engineers. *International Handbook of Earthquake and Engineering Seismology*, W. H. K. Lee, H. Kanamori, P. C. Jennings, and C. Kisslinger Editors, chapter 85.5 San Diego: Academic Press.

Herrmann, R.B., L. Malagnini, and I. Munafò (2011), Regional moment tensors of the 2009 L'Aquila earthquake sequence, *Bull. Seismol. Soc. Am.* 101, doi: 10.1785/0120100184.

Li, Y. G., and J. E. Vidale (1996). Low-velocity fault zone guided waves: Numerical investigations of trapping efficiency, *Bull. Seism. Soc. Am.*, 86, 371–378, 1996.

Li, Y. G., P. Chen, E. S. Cochran, J. E., Vidale, and T. Burdette (2006), Seismic evidence for rock damage and healing on the San Andreas fault associated with the 2004 M6 Parkfield earthquake, *Bull. Seism. Soc. Am.*, 96(4), S1-S15, doi:10.1785/0120050803,

Li, Y. G., P. Chen, E. S. Cochran, and J. E. Vidale (2007), Seismic velocity variations on the San Andreas Fault caused by the 2004 M6 Parkfield earthquake and their implications, *Earth Planets Space*, 59, 21-31.

Lucente, F. P., P. De Gori, L. Margheriti, D. Piccinini, M. Di Bona, C. Chiarabba, and N. Piana Agostinetti (2010), Temporal variation of seismic velocity and anisotropy before the 2009 Mw 6.3 L'Aquila earthquake, Italy, *Geology*, 38, 1015–1018, doi:10.1130/G31463.1.

Papadopoulos, G.A., M. Charalampakis, A. Fokaefs, and G. Minadakis (2010), Strong foreshock signal preceding the L'Aquila (Italy) earthquake (Mw 6.3) of 6 April 2009, *Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci.* 10 (1), 19–24, doi:10.5194/nhess-10-19-2010.

Peng, Z., and Y. Ben-Zion (2006), Temporal changes of shallow seismic velocity around the Karadere-Duzce Branch of the North Anatolian Fault and strong ground motion, *Pure Appl. Geophys.*, 163 (2006) 567–600, doi: 10.1007/s00024-005-0034-6.

Poupinet, G., W. L. Ellsworth, and J. Frechet (1984), Monitoring velocity variations in the crust using earthquake doublets: An application to the Calaveras fault, California, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 89, 5719-5731, 1984, doi:10.1029/JB089iB07p05719.

Roux, P., and Y. Ben-Zion (2014), Monitoring fault zone environments with correlations of earthquake waveforms, *Geophys. J. Int.*, 196, 1073–1081, doi:10.1093/gji/ggt441.

Savage, M. K. (2010), The role of fluids in earthquake in the 2009 Mw 6.3 L'Aquila, Italy, earthquake and its foreshocks, *Geology* 38, 1055–1056, doi: 10.1130/focus112010.1

Schaff, D. P., and G. C. Beroza (2004), Coseismic and postseismic velocity changes measured by repeating earthquakes, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 109, B10302, doi:10.1029/2004JB003011.

Sugan, M., A. Kato, H. Miyake, S. Nakagawa, and A. Vuan (2014), The preparatory phase of the 2009 Mw 6.3 L'Aquila earthquake by improving the detection capability of low-magnitude foreshocks, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 41, doi:10.1002/2014GL061199.

Taira, T., P. G. Silver, F. Niu, and R. M. Nadeau (2008), Detecting seismogenic stress evolution and constraining fault zone rheology in the San Andreas Fault following the 2004 Parkfield earthquake, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 113, B03303, doi: 10.1029/2007JB005151.

Taira, T., P. G. Silver, F. Niu and R. M. Nadeau (2009), Seismic evidence for remote triggering of fault-strength changes on the San Andreas fault at Parkfield, *Nature*, 461, 636–640, doi:10.1038/nature08395.

Telesca, L. (2010), A non-extensive approach in investigating the seismicity of L'Aquila area (central Italy), struck by the 6 April 2009 earthquake ($M_L = 5.8$), *Terra Nova*, 22, 87–93, 2010b, doi:10.1111/j.1365-3121.2009.00920.x

Terakawa, T., A. Zoporowski, B. Galvan, and S.A. Miller (2010), High-pressure fluid at hypocentral depths in the L'Aquila region inferred from earthquake focal mechanisms, *Geology*, 38, 995–998, doi:10.1130/G31457.1.

Vezzani, L., and F. Ghisetti (1998), Carta geologica dell'Abruzzo, Scala 1:100.000, S.El.Ca., Florence, Italy.

Waldhauser, F., and W. L. Ellsworth (2000), A double-difference earthquake location algorithm: method and application to the northern Hayward Fault, *Bull. Seismol. Soc. Am.*, 90, 1330–1368, doi: 10.1785/0120000006.

Wessel, P., and W. H. F. Smith (1991), Free software helps map and display data, *Eos Trans. AGU*, 72, 441, doi: 10.1029/90EO00319.

Wu, C., Z. Peng, and Y. Ben-Zion (2009), Non-linearity and temporal changes of fault zone site response associated with strong ground motion, *Geophys. J. Int.*, 176, 265–278, doi: 10.1111/j.1365-246X.2008.04005.x.

Zaccarelli, L., N. M. Shapiro, L. Faenza, G. Soldati, and A. Michelini (2011), Variations of crustal elastic properties during the 2009 L'Aquila earthquake inferred from cross-correlations of ambient seismic noise, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 38, L24304, doi: 10.1029/2011GL049750.

Zhang, X., and D. J. Sanderson (1996), Effects of stress on the two dimensional permeability tensor of natural fracture networks, *Geophys. J. Int.*, 125, 912–924, doi:10.1111/j.1365-246X.1996.tb06034.x.

Table Captions

Table 1: Source parameters of repeating earthquakes used in this study.

Figure Captions

Figure 1: Map of the study area with epicenters of the 2009 L'Aquila seismic sequence. Black triangles are the broad-band seismological stations AQU, FAGN, and FIAM used in this paper. The orange rectangle is the projection onto the surface of the ruptured fault plane of the 6 April 2009, Mw 6.3 earthquake [the Paganica Seismogenic Source of *DISS Working Group*, 2010], and the white star indicates the rupture nucleation patch. Gray symbols are aftershocks, and green and blue symbols are foreshocks before and after the M_L 4.1, 30 March foreshock, respectively. Red lines represent active faults in the region according to *Vezzani and Ghisetti* [1998], *Faluccci et al.* [2009] and *Galli et al.* [2010]. In the inset, colored dots represent epicenters of causative earthquakes that

generated FZTWs at FAGN, the color scale quantifies their relative (log) amplification in the frequency band 1 – 3 Hz [after *Calderoni et al.*, 2012].

Figure 2: Waveforms of repeating earthquakes (in red) superimposed to the master event (in black). The largest part of them was selected using station FIAM, in a position substantially orthogonal to the fault strike (master event # 5). Three events were not recorded by FIAM and seismograms of the on-fault station FAGN were used (master event # 4). Waveforms of this station show a larger complexity due to the effect of the propagation in the fault and result in generally lower CC than those of FIAM when both are available. The fault plane solution of the M_L 4.1, 30 March largest foreshock is redrawn from *Herrmann et al.* [2011]. It is representative of focal mechanism of the entire cluster.

Figure 3: (a) Amplitude variations of FZTWs (in black) as inferred from the FAGN/AQU spectral ratios using the horizontal fault-parallel components. Error bars indicate 95% of the confidence interval in the 1-3 Hz frequency band. Red symbols are decorrelation values (1-CC) of the FAGN waveforms using a 4-s time window bracketing FZTWs. The zooming image in the inset shows to what extent the match is strict between these two independent parameters. The sudden jump dates 30 March 2009, a ten of hours after the M_L 4.1 largest foreshock. . (b) A consistent trend, although with much smaller time resolution, was found by *Zaccarelli et al.* [2011] for velocity variations in the crust. (c) The M_L 4.1 foreshock also marked a discontinuity in the seismicity rate [*Di Luccio et al.*, 2010].

Figure 4: (Central panel) The grey band represents 95% of the confidence interval of FAGN/AQU spectral ratio in the 1-3 Hz frequency band, and red symbols are spectral ratios of FZTW/S in the same frequency band. In the small panels (a to f in chronological order), waveforms of individual

426 events (in red) are superimposed to the event # 1 (in black) that is used as a background reference.
427 Panels a, b and f are relative to events with small amplitudes of trapped-waves and coherent
428 waveforms, panels c to e are representative of waveform variations in the period between 30 March
429 and 6 April, showing larger amplitudes and a drop of coherence. Values of CC in bold face are
430 relative to a 4-s time window bracketing the FZTW wavetrain, and numbers in brackets are the
431 cross-correlations of FIAM using direct body waves.

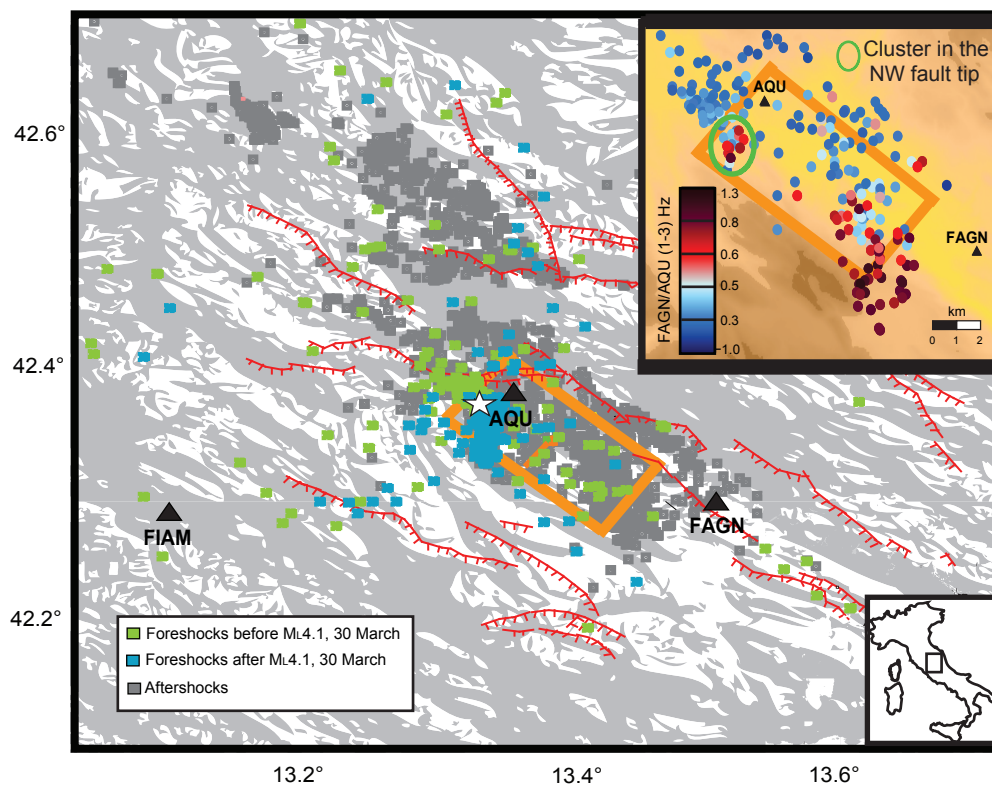


Fig. 1

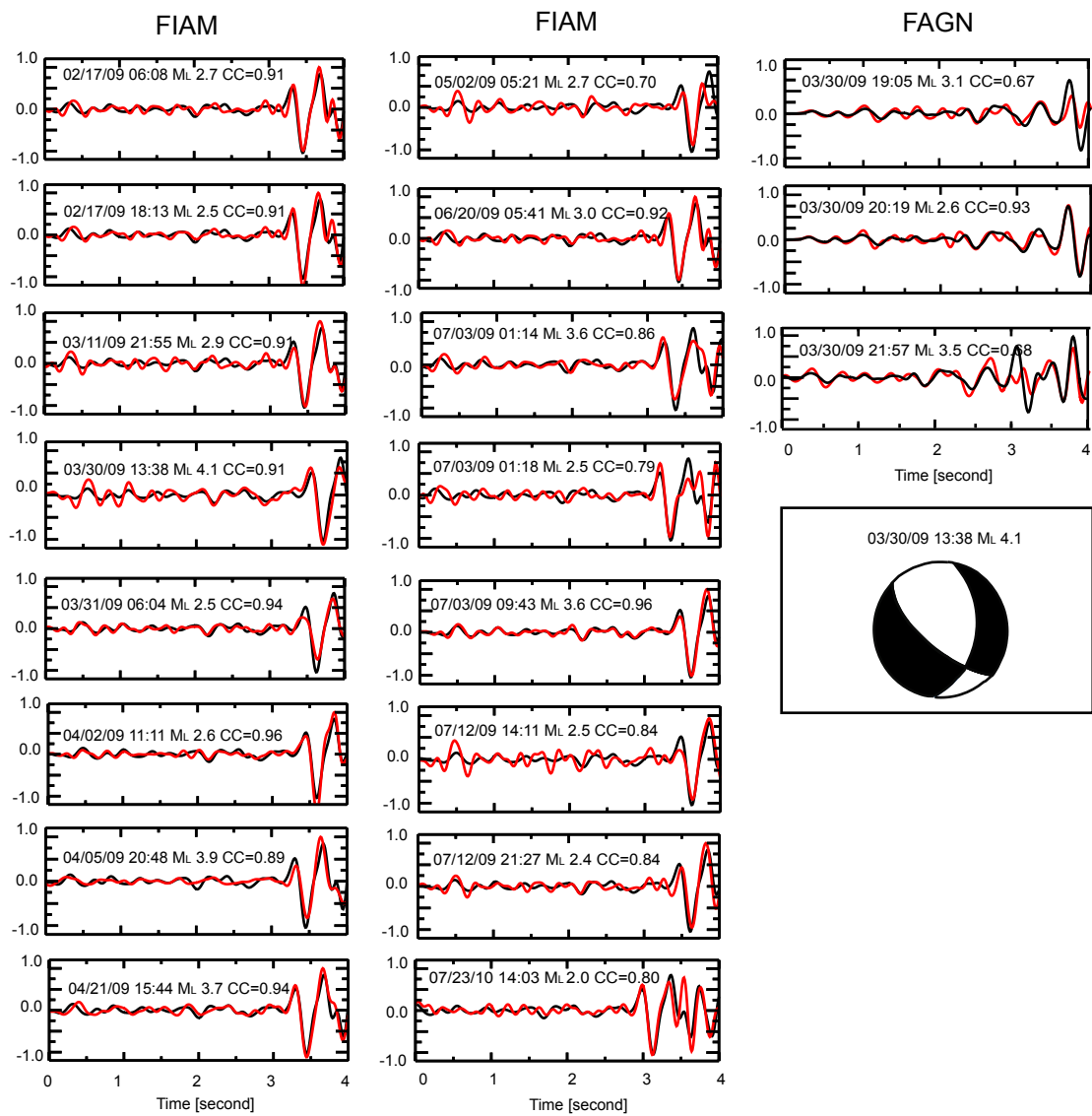


Fig. 2

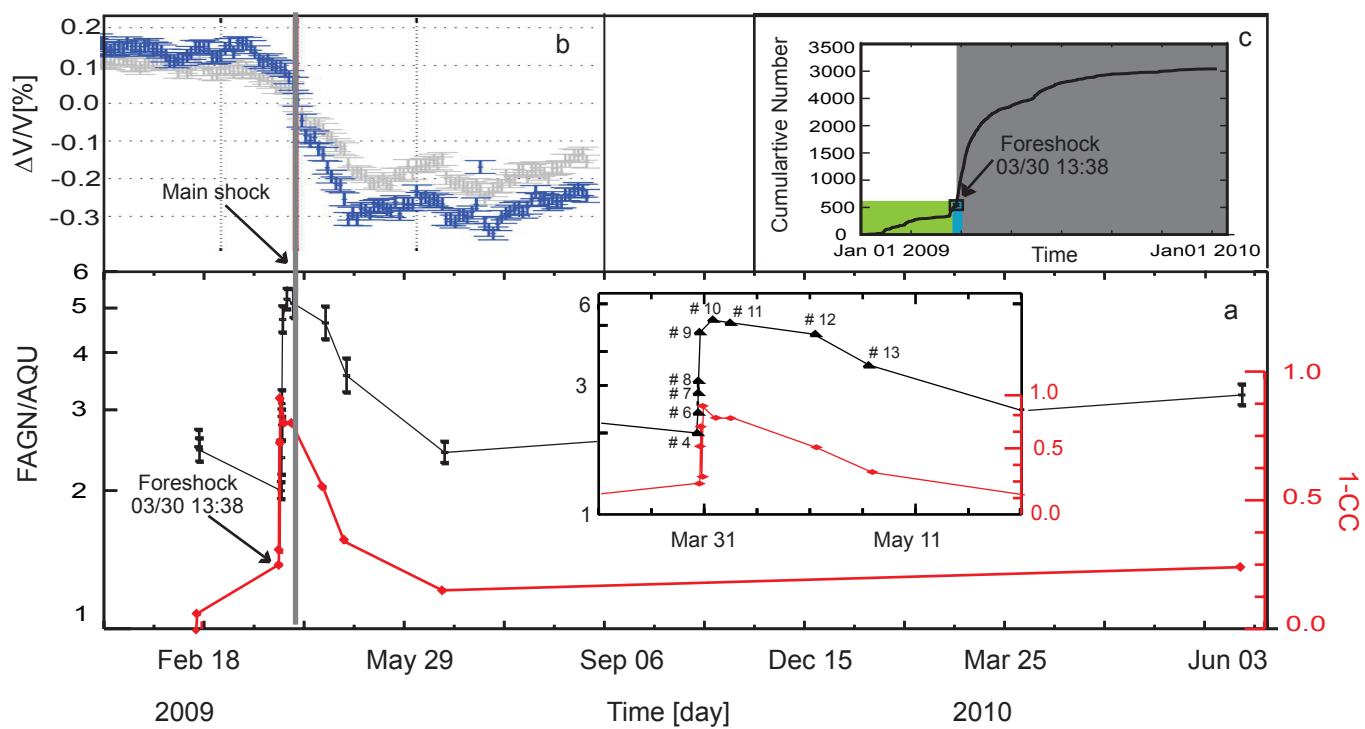


Fig. 3

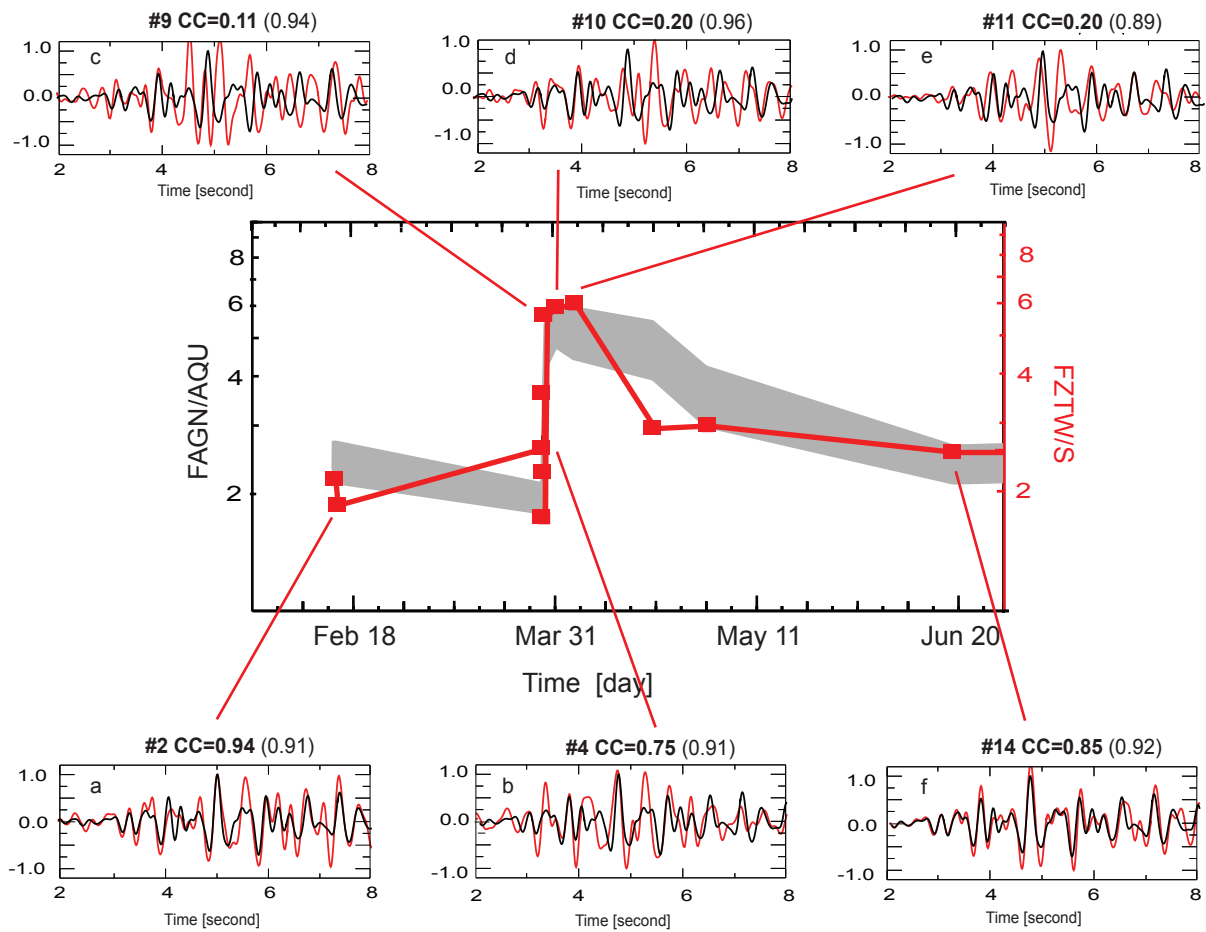


Fig. 4

Table 1

N	Time UTC	Latitude (°)	Longitude (°)	Depth (km)	M _L	FIAM	FAGN	AQU
1	2009/02/17 06:08	42.335	13.374	9.7	2.7	X	X	X
2	2009/02/17 18:13	42.333	13.380	10.2	2.5	X	X	X
3	2009/03/11 21:55	42.325	13.383	9.4	2.9	X		X
4	2009/03/30 13:38	42.337	13.378	11.0	4.1	X	X	X
5	2009/03/30 13:43	42.315	13.378	9.7	3.4	X		
6	2009/03/30 19:05	42.316	13.373	9.7	3.1		X	X
7	2009/03/30 20:19	42.332	13.377	10.7	2.6		X	X
8	2009/03/30 21:57	42.316	13.375	9.5	3.5		X	X
9	2009/03/31 06:04	42.327	13.372	11.5	2.5	X	X	X
10	2009/04/02 11:11	42.327	13.381	10.9	2.6	X	X	X
11	2009/04/05 20:48	42.337	13.380	10.5	3.9	X	X	X
12	2009/04/21 15:44	42.324	13.371	10.0	3.7	X	X	X
13	2009/05/02 05:21	42.334	13.380	10.3	2.7	X	X	X
14	2009/06/20 05:41	42.324	13.371	9.7	3.0	X	X	X
15	2009/07/03 01:14	42.319	13.366	11.1	3.6	X		X
16	2009/07/03 01:18	42.319	13.366	10.6	2.5	X		
17	2009/07/03 09:43	42.323	13.375	10.3	3.6	X		X
18	2009/07/12 14:11	42.325	13.383	9.7	2.5	X		X
19	2009/07/12 21:27	42.329	13.372	10.4	2.4	X		X
20	2010/07/23 14:03	42.318	13.372	11.4	2.0	X	X	X